

GERMANS LAUNCH TERRIFIC ATTACK ON FRENCH AT VERDUN

Decisive Battle Believed to Be
Raging at Melancourt and
About Dead Man Hill.

JOFFRE'S LINES IMPERILED

Bavarians Attempt to Cut Off
Communications of Troops
at Bethincourt.

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—
Flushing correspondents of Am-
sterdam newspapers today re-
port sounds of heavy firing in
the North Sea from the direc-
tion of Ostend and Westende
this morning. Skippers believe
an important naval fight is go-
ing on.

LONDON, March 24.—German
troops have resumed heavy attacks
against the French front northwest
of Verdun, according to Paris dis-
patches today.

Following a twenty-four-hour
lull, the German batteries turned
a terrific fire on the French po-
sitions south of Melancourt and
around Dead Man Hill. French
guns roared in reply all day yes-
terday.

It is believed in Paris that the
decisive battle on this sector has
begun.

PERIL TO FRENCH.

By battering through the French lines
in Avocourt wood, the crown prince
bent the French front in the shape
of a dangerous loop. The neck of this loop
is less than four miles wide.

German artillery posted on the ridge
near Dead Man Hill, on the northeast
side, is sweeping the four miles of
wooded plain with a heavy fire.

On the southwestern side, Bavarian
regiments are striving to cut through
the intervening four miles, cutting off
French forces holding Bethincourt and
Malancourt.

Despatches from Berlin declare that
the French are in an extremely pre-
carious position.

Berlin claims to have captured two
more trenches in the Haucourt re-
gion.

The Germans pressed forward south
of Malancourt, against the south-
western side of the French salient, where
the advance further imperils French
positions at Malancourt and Bathin-
court.

From Paris comes news of a heavy
bombardment of German positions
in the woods south of Malancourt and
around Douaumont and Damloup.

In the Woivre region the artillery
fire was most violent near Houla-
ville and Eparques.

French troops occupied a mine crater
near Hill 285 in the Argonne.

Savage Slav Attack Made on Riga Salient

PETROGRAD, March 24.—Savage
fighting is going on at Jacobstadt,
eighty miles southeast of Riga, where
the Russians, using liquid fire and gas
bombs, are battering in the German
salient.

At the same time, the Slavs are at-
tacking vigorously at Friedrichtadt,
west of Jacobstadt and at Ilkult, to
the south.

General Kuropatkin's aim, apparently,
is to squeeze von Hindenburg out of
this important salient by threats of
envelopment, forcing the retirement of
the whole German line from Riga to
Dvinsk, on a front of 140 miles.

Handicap of Germans.
The success of this offensive will remove
the German threat against Riga, and
Dvinsk and a handicap von Hindenburg in
an aggressive campaign he may un-
dertake on the Russian front.

Despite optimistic statements from
some sources, best informed critics here
do not consider Kuropatkin's attacks
the beginnings of a great Russian of-
fensive. The spring thaw, due within
possibly a fortnight, is expected to im-
pede artillery movements and force a
pull in the fighting on the northern
front.

When the ground becomes firm again,
big offensive movements by both the
Germans and the Russians are certain to
develop. To improve his defensive po-
sitions to meet the expected German
attack, General Kuropatkin is spread-
ing out German wedges in the Russian
line and moving to capture highway in-
tersections and dominating positions.

For Strategic Railways.
South of Dvinsk, the Germans are
counter-attacking vigorously. The on-
slaught of the Russian troops has tempo-
rarily been halted by the enemy's on-
slaughts. Both sides are battling for
the possession of strategic railways of
great importance in the expected spring
offensive.

Russian artillery is tuning up along
the whole 500-mile front. On sectors
that have been inactive for many
months there are indications that in-
fantry clashes, similar to those now cur-
rent in the north, are about to begin,
as a prelude to the general offensive.

In the extreme southeast German
troops are meeting with no serious resis-
tance in their campaign to clear Austrian
troops from the north bank of the Danube.

New York Dentist Who Is Held in Poison Case



—Photo by Underwood & Underwood.
DR. ARTHUR WARREN WAITE.

WOULD ELIMINATE SECRETARY OF NAVY

Admiral Fiske Recommends Es-
tablishment of Permanent
Chief of Operations.

The elimination of the Secretary of
the Navy, to all practical intents, was
the suggestion of Admiral Bradley
Fiske to the House Naval Committee
today.

The admiral, over whose appearance
Congressman Britten and Chairman
Padgett had fought for weeks, the
chairman finally consenting, started
the committee with his proposal. He
recommended the establishment of a
permanent chief of operations who
would have authority over the prepa-
ration of the entire navy for war,
and who could not be overruled by
the Secretary of the Navy without
authority of Congress.

"If we have a Secretary who comes
in every four years and changes the
entire strategy of the navy we will
never get anywhere," Admiral Fiske
said. "We should have a law that
would make it impossible for the Sec-
retary to change conditions and the
policies of the navy without appearing
before Congress and securing consent."

Chairman Padgett clashed frequently
with Britten and Roberts, of Massa-
chusetts, "big navy" advocates.
Padgett endeavored to bring out by
cross-questioning Fiske that navy of-
ficers should not have authority over
the civilian heads of the Navy Depart-
ment. Fiske said there should not be
divided authority. He said he would not
place the naval officers over the
civilians, but that the chief of opera-
tions should have a more extensive au-
thority.

"It would take five years to put our
navy on an effective basis," Fiske said.
"This opinion has been indicated by
every naval officer I have talked to.
Our navy will never be as effective as
those of other countries until the system
is changed. Since 1877 there has been
an increasing realization of the impor-
tance of 'continued policy' of strategy.
It is easy enough to have a big navy,
but not so easy to have a good one.
The policy of strategy should be made
continuous."

"Britten said he feared that a Sec-
retary could come in and nullify all of
the active things done by his pre-
decessors.
"I have no fear that any Secretary
who may be appointed will do any such
thing," Chairman Padgett retorted.
"It has been done," Britten replied.

Unknown Woman Dying in Hospital

Police Trying to Find Relatives
With Meager Clues Before
She Succumbs.

An unidentified white woman is dying
at Emergency Hospital.

Police are bending every effort to
locate her relatives. She is suffering
from uremic poison and physicians fear
she cannot live much longer.

Park Policeman Berkeley Inge found
her lying early yesterday at Thir-
teenth street and Pennsylvania avenue
northwest and assisted her to the hos-
pital.

There she declared her name was
Clara Wilson, and gave several home
addresses, before she lapsed into un-
consciousness.

The police were notified of the
woman's condition early today. De-
tectives Evans and Warren were im-
mediately assigned to the case. They visited
all the addresses she had given, but
found no one who could identify her.

The only possible clue to her identity
is a laundry ticket, bearing in Chinese
characters the number 481, and a tele-
phone number.

She was about twenty-three
years old, five feet four inches tall,
weighs about 130 pounds, has light
brown hair, and a round, florid face.
She wore a black skirt, a lavender-
striped waist, a green coat with white
buttons, and a black felt hat with a
feather. She carried a small hand
bag.

EVIDENCE AGAINST WAITE IS COMPLETE, SAYS PROSECUTOR

Accused Son-in-Law of Million-
aire Victim to Be Taken to
Tombs.

RECOVERING FROM DRUG

Dentist Reviving From Effects
of "Sleeping Powder" Taken
After Arrest.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Dis-
trict Attorney Swann announced
this afternoon he had forged the
last link in evidence which he
claims will hold Dr. Arthur
Warren Waite to answer for the
death of his millionaire father-
in-law and mother.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Dr. Arthur
Warren Waite, suspected in the mys-
terious poisoning of his millionaire
father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand
Rapids, Mich., and the latter's wife, will
be moved from his palatial apartment
overlooking the Hudson today and
lodged in a cell in the Tombs.

Detectives, who guarded Waite closely
throughout the night, said that he is
slowly recovering from the effects of
the drug he took while they were linking
him with the death mystery. Before
night he may be arraigned on the for-
mal charge of homicide.

While the work was being kept at
Waite's marble-walled apartment on
Riverside Drive, District Attorney
Swann went over the evidence in what
he asserts is the most puzzling crime
story he has ever dealt with.

Charges Against Doctor.

The district attorney gave out today
the following amazing charges already
made in the probe of the Grand Rapids
millionaire's mysterious death:

"That Dr. Waite, the night before
Peck died, poured something from a
small vial into a plate of soup and
also into a cup of tea placed before
his father-in-law. This charge was
made by Dora Hillier, the West Indian
negress maid;
"That Dr. Waite, while maintaining a
home for his beautiful wife in the ex-
clusive Coliseum apartments, also main-
tained a suite in the fashionable Plaza
Hotel, near Central Park, for a mys-
terious woman who has disappeared;
"That Dr. Waite apparently had no
practice and found time to become the
indoor tennis champion of New York;
"That his living expenses must have
totaled \$50,000 a year.

Search is being continued today for
the mysterious woman, who is said to
have slipped out of the Plaza Hotel
while detectives were hot on her trail
for an explanation of her relations with
the doctor.

Though the district attorney does not
(Continued on Third Page.)

Allies Reject Plan To Disarm Liners

Joint Reply Received Today at
State Department on U. S.
Proposal.

The joint reply of the allies to the
State Department's proposal that mer-
chantmen be disarmed was received at
the State Department today.

It is understood from the highest au-
thority that the proposal was not ac-
cepted, the allies replying that the sit-
uation and conditions of naval warfare
did not warrant them in subjecting
those vessels to the risk of disarmament.

SUGAR TARIFF RAISE PROPOSED BY GORE

Would Bring to Treasury Revenue
of Over \$100,000,000.

If a plan which was proposed by Sen-
ator Gore in the Senate Finance Com-
mittee today should be adopted, sugar
would bring in to the Treasury a re-
venue of over \$100,000,000.

Senator Gore urged that in addition to
existing duty, sugar bear an additional
half cent customs tariff, and an excise
tax of a cent a pound, this to be an
emergency plan to last through the Eu-
ropean war.

The committee did not act on the
sugar tariff question, and will meet
again tomorrow. Senator Gore said his
plan would bring in \$60,000,000 additional
revenue from sugar.

A problem which members of the com-
mittee are considering in this connec-
tion is how to meet the cost of the
Mexican expedition if it is prolonged.

U.S. Troopers in Mexico Wear Sand Masks

The sand mask is the latest in
military dress.
The Mexican campaign through a
desert land mothered this
invention, which is gay and
colorful, not monstrous like
the gas masks of Europe.

In fact, all there is to a sand
mask is a handkerchief pulled
up over the mouth and nose,
in bandit style. Red bandan-
as are the thing.

HOUSE TO DECIDE IF DAVIS' SPEECH IS UNFIT FOR RECORD

Congressman Madden Scores
Texas "Cyclone" for Scur-
rilous Remarks.

'RECORD IS NOT A CESSPOOL'

Illinois Member Declares His
Colleague's Remarks Should
Be Barred From Publication.

A speech inserted in the Congres-
sional Record by Congressman "Cy-
clone" Davis, a Texas Democrat,
caused the appointment of a special
House committee today to determine
whether the Davis speech was "unfit
to be printed."

Congressman Martin B. Madden, of
Illinois, called the attention of the
House to (Mr. Davis' remarks. He de-
clared that they were "indecent and
not fit for publication on the Records
of Congress."

"I do not intend that the Congres-
sional Record shall be used as a cess-
pool," said Mr. Madden. "Some of the
language contained in this speech is
such that no respectable newspaper in
the United States would print it. Lan-
guage that the newspapers cannot
print should not be allowed in the
Record of this House."

Are Called Libelous.
The Illinois member added that Mr.
Davis' speech contained "vile epithets
that could not be published in a news-
paper and would be libelous if pub-
lished anywhere else, but the Record."

He seems to have washed the dirty
linen of some Texas controversy," said
Mr. Madden.

The speaker first moved that the
speech be expunged from the Record
forthwith.

It was suggested by Congressman
Garrett, Garner and others that the
practice of the appointment of a special
committee to consider the fitness of any
speech of doubtful propriety, save on
occasions heretofore the House has
caused speeches to be stricken from
its Record.

Committee Is Named.
Mr. Madden then moved a commit-
tee of five to investigate the Davis
speech and Speaker Clark named Con-
gressmen Webb, of North Carolina,
Barkley, of Kentucky, Montague, of
Virginia, Cooper, of Wisconsin and
Platt, of New York.

The speaker informed the Texas that
the House was proceeding under its
general rules, and that if a committee
was named it would have to appear
before it in person or by counsel.

This seemed to satisfy Mr. Davis.
The Davis speech was printed under
unanimous consent of the House, and
was not delivered on the floor.

The result was a series of sharp
colloquies with Senators Borah and
with other Senators.

In the course of his remarks, Sen-
ator Stone charged that sinister in-
fluences were at work in Mexico, co-
operating perhaps with influences on
this side, to embroil the two coun-
tries.

He said Senators could do as they
wished. They could say what they
wished.

"But just what good is to be accom-
plished by it surpasses intelligent un-
derstanding," he declared.

Knows Situation Is Serious.
"Every man with sense enough to
come in out of the wet knows the sit-
uation in Mexico is a critical one," added
Senator Stone.

"It is critical in this sense that an
effort is being made by numerous peo-
ple in Mexico and numerous sinister in-
fluences in Mexico to excite the people
of that unfortunate country and to mis-
lead them, to impress them with the
idea that the United States contemplates
aggression against the Mexican govern-
ment, against the whole people, to their
injury."

He declared sinister influences were
at work in Mexico and this country to
precipitate a situation the end of which
we know not of.

It will be impossible to read from consular
reports to seek to show the complica-
tions had been exaggerated.

WORTH GWYNN ROSS DEAD AT HIS HOME

Former Head of Revenue Cutter
Service Succumbs.

Capt. Worth Gwynn Ross, retired,
captain commandant of the Revenue-
Cutter Service from 1906 to 1911, died
at his home in New Bedford, Mass., this
morning, according to a telegram re-
ceived at Coast Guard headquarters.

Captain Ross was one of the first
officers graduated from the Revenue-
Cutter Service Academy. He was well
known in Washington. He was a mem-
ber of the Loyal Legion, Naval and
Military Order of the Spanish-American
War, and the Lotos Club, of New York.

Captain Ross was a native of Cleve-
land, where he was born April 19, 1854.
His father was Gen. Samuel Ross, U. S.
A., who was largely instrumental in the
establishment of the Revenue-Cutter
Service school of instruction.

Washington Man Injured In Automobile Accident

PHILADELPHIA, March 24.—Thomas
F. Brennan, thirty, of Washington, D.
C., was among four men who were in-
jured, one of them seriously, in a col-
lision between a touring car and a mo-
tor truck here today. He suffered a
broken arm and bruises, and was taken
with the other men to the Women's
Homeopathic Hospital.

The name Thomas F. Brennan does
not appear in the City Directory.

VILLA TRAPPED, FIGHT NEAR, SAYS CARRANZA; "LID OFF" IN SENATE

CALLS IT TREASON TO FURNISH ARMS TO VILLA

Senator Lewis Introduces Bill
to End American Trade
With Bandit Chief.

STONE ATTACKS ALARMISTS

Charges "Sinister Forces Are
Working to Embroil U. S.
and Mexico in War."

The lid blew off the Mexican situ-
ation in the Senate this afternoon
when Senator Lewis of Illinois in-
troduced a resolution declaring that
persons in this country furnishing
arms and munitions and other sup-
plies to Villa were guilty of trea-
son.

Immediately after that, Senator
Borah presented a telegram from
Douglas, Ariz., telling of the dan-
ger to the people there from Mex-
ican troops on the other side.

This telegram was addressed to
Senator Fall, who is absent, and
was similar to a message received
by Senator Ashurst.

SIGNED BY ATTORNEY.

Both messages were signed by a
prominent attorney, D. A. Richard-
son.

Senator Sheppard of Texas, pre-
sented a telegram from Douglas signed
by F. W. White, which said reports of
yesterday were exaggerated, but
which asked for troops.

Senator Stone, aroused by the evi-
dent disposition to discuss the Mex-
ican situation, arose and in a bitter
speech rebuked Senators for airing
telegrams of this kind at this critical
time.

The result was a series of sharp
colloquies with Senators Borah and
with other Senators.

In the course of his remarks, Sen-
ator Stone charged that sinister in-
fluences were at work in Mexico, co-
operating perhaps with influences on
this side, to embroil the two coun-
tries.

He said Senators could do as they
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ple in Mexico and numerous sinister in-
fluences in Mexico to excite the people
of that unfortunate country and to mis-
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idea that the United States contemplates
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ment, against the whole people, to their
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at work in Mexico and this country to
precipitate a situation the end of which
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reports to seek to show the complica-
tions had been exaggerated.

Reber's Condition Reported Serious

Several Ribs Broken and Internal
Injuries Sustained in Fall
at His House.

Surgeons at Walter Reed Hospital to-
day took x-ray photographs to deter-
mine the extent of the injuries sustain-
ed by Lieut. Col. Samuel Reber, U. S.
A., in a fall at his home yesterday.

Colonel Reber's condition was reported
as serious today. Several ribs are
broken, and he is internally injured.
It has not been determined whether he
sustained a broken hip. He is attended
by Capt. W. H. Moncrief, chief surgeon
of the hospital.

It will be impossible to state the ex-
tent of his injuries, hospital physicians
said today, until the x-ray photographs
are developed.

Colonel Reber suffered several attacks
of vertigo at his office yesterday. When
he went home in the early afternoon for
lunch he ascended to the third floor
to visit his two young sons, who were
quarantined with measles.

He was attacked with vertigo at the
head of the stairs, and as he descended
he fell. He was unconscious when picked
up. The investigation of the situation
section of the signal corps, of whom
Colonel Reber is the head, has been
suspended temporarily. Colonel Reber
is a son-in-law of Lieut. Gen. John S.
Miles. He lives at 1821 Jefferson place.

Decides Against Call For Guardsmen

There will be no mobilization
of the National Guard on the
border at present.

The President and his Cabinet
decided today that there is
no present need for a call
for volunteers nor for the
militia.

The question of calling out the
guardsmen for patrol duty
was gone into in detail.

The Administration believes
that mobilization of the
militia on the border would
embarrass Carranza and
make it more difficult to con-
trol the situation.

In view of the early encourag-
ing reports today officials
view the situation optimisti-
cally.

DOUGLAS DECLARED IN PERIL OF ATTACK

Telegram to Senator Ashurst
Says U. S. Forces Are Or-
dered Not to Prepare.

With a Mexican army of 3,000 cavalry
and forty pieces of artillery camped
within ten blocks of the center of
Douglas, Ariz., and with American
troops ordered not to prepare for active
defense for fear of offending the Mex-
icans, the Arizona city is in grave
danger of imminent attack, according to
a telegram received today by Senator
Ashurst from D. A. Richardson, an at-
torney.

"We all you can for us before it is
too late," said the telegram.

Senator Ashurst was undetermined
this morning whether to present the
telegram to the Senate or to the War
Department. In both quarters, he de-
clared, his pleas for aid have been
received rather lightly.

The telegram was called to the atten-
tion of the War Department, which, in
turn, advised General Funston of it,
without any recommendation. Funston
is empowered to handle such situations
as he sees fit.

Army Men Not Alarmed.
The Carranzistas have had a large
garrison near Douglas for some
months. In November it was about
6,000.

Army men are not inclined to regard
the situation there as in any way cri-
tical, for they believe, even should there
be an uprising, they have better trained
and equipped, could easily cope with a
vastly larger number of the Mexicans.

In the Carranzista garrison are a large
number of boys of from twelve to four-
teen years of age. Few of them are
even fair marksmen. It is said, as was
demonstrated in the Villista-Carranza
clash at Agua Prieta several months
ago, when several million rounds of
small ammunition were fired away with
comparatively insignificant casualties.

The telegram to Ashurst reads:
"Mexican general has forty pieces of
artillery and 3,000 cavalry stationed ten
blocks from center of Douglas. Seven
thousand cavalry stationed six miles
south of Douglas. We have only 1,800
infantry, 300 cavalry, and four pieces
of artillery. Our troops stationed two
miles east of Douglas."

Mexicans Have Entrenched.
"Am reliably informed it would re-
quire one hour for our troops to reach
Douglas in case of night attack. Our
army forbidden by Administration from
making any active defense preparations
for fear of offending the Mexicans, who
are better trained and equipped, could
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